What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating importing merchandise into a country, comprising:

    inputting data related to at least one item of merchandise;

    searching a database of customs-related information to obtain classification information related to the at least one item of merchandise; and

    storing the inputted data and the classification information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the database of customs-related information includes at least one of product classification, regulations, rulings, directives, registrations, duty notices, foreign codes, tariff schedules, explanatory notes, encyclopedias, and contact directory of customs advisors.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

    associating the stored inputted data and classification information with at least one party;

    assigning an action to the at least one party related to the inputted data and classification information;

    storing the action taken by the at least one party;

    generating a report based on the inputted data, classification information, the action assigned and the action taken by the at least one party; and

    storing the report.

4. The method of claim 3 comprising searching the database of customs-related information for new data relevant to the classification of the at least one item of merchandise; and notifying the at least one party of the new data identified in the search.

5. The method of claim 3 comprising storing the reports for a preset time.

6. A method for creating a compliance audit trail for importing merchandise into a country, comprising:

    inputting data related to at least one item of merchandise;

associating the inputted data with at least one party;

searching a database of customs-related information for information relating the inputted data;

comparing the inputted data to the database of customs-related information to obtain a classification of the at least one item of merchandise based on the inputted data;

sending the inputted data and classification to the at least one party for action;

receiving information related to the action from the at least one party; and

generating a report based on the results of the comparison to obtain classification of the at least one item, and the action of the at least one party.

7.　The method of claim 6 comprising storing the reports for a preset time.

8.　The method of claim 6 wherein the report comprises tariff product classification.

9.　The method of claim 6 wherein the report identifies import duties for the at least one item of merchandise.

10.　The method of claim 6 wherein the report provides tracking information for the merchandise.

11.　The method of claim 6, comprising searching the database of customs-related information for new data relevant to the classification of the at least one item of merchandise; and notifying the at least one party of new data identified in the search.

12.　A method for obtaining subscribers to a merchandise classification service, the method comprising:

inputting information related an import transaction, the import transaction including the import of at least one item of merchandise;

storing the inputted information in association with at least one party to the import transaction; and

requiring the at least one party to subscribe to a merchandise classification service to access the inputted information.

13. A method for providing a merchandise classification system for customs compliance, comprising:

providing a plurality of access to a merchandise classification system for customs compliance;

wherein a first level access to a merchandise classification system is provided to a first level of users, the first level access being dependant on the first level of user's association with a classification determination; and

a second level access to the merchandise classification system for customs compliance to a second level of users, the second level access being dependant on the second level of user's association with a classification, and the first level of user's association with the classification determination is different than the second level of user's association with the classification determination; and

providing the first level access on a free basis as an inducement to attract the second level of users to use the merchandise classification system.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the first level of users are at least one of governmental agencies, advisors or experts.

15. A system for providing merchandise classification for customs compliance, comprising:

means for at least one authorized party to remotely input data related to at least one item of merchandise;

means for the at least one authorized party to remotely access the inputted data;

means for searching a database of customs-related information to obtain classification information related to the at least one item of merchandise; and

means for storing the inputted data and the classification information.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the database of customs-related information includes at least one of product classification, regulations, rulings, directives, registrations, duty notices, foreign codes, tariff schedules, explanatory notes, encyclopedias, and contact directory of customs advisors.

17. The system of claim 15 comprising:

>means for the least one authorized party to remotely associate the stored inputted data and classification information with at least one second authorized party;

>means for the at least one authorized party to remotely assign an action to the at least one second authorized party related to the inputted data and classification information;

>means for storing the action taken by the at least one second authorized party;

>means for generating a report based on the inputted data, classification information, the action assigned and the action taken by the at least one second authorized party; and

>means for storing the report.

18. A system for creating a compliance audit trail for importing merchandise into a country, comprising:

>means for at least one authorized party to remotely input data related to at least one item of merchandise;

>means for the at least one authorized party operative to associate the inputted data with at least one second authorized party;

>means for searching a database of customs-related information for information relating the inputted data;

>means for comparing the inputted data to the database of customs-related information to obtain a classification of the at least one item of merchandise based on the inputted data;

>means for transmitting the inputted data and classification to the at least one second authorized party for action;

>means for receiving information related to the action from the at least one second authorized party; and

means for generating a report based on the results of the comparison to obtain classification of the at least one item, and the action of the at least one second authorized party.

19. The system of claim 18, comprising means for storing the report.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the report comprises tariff product classification.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein the report identifies import duties for the at least one item of merchandise.

22. The system of claim 18 wherein the report provides tracking information for the merchandise.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein the means for searching the database of customs-related information is operative to search for new data relevant to the classification of the at least one item of merchandise; and means for notifying the at least one of the at least one authorized party, or the at least one second party of new data identified in the search.

24. A method for providing a merchandise classification system for customs compliance, comprising:

    inputting information related to at least one item of merchandise;

    searching a database of customs related information based on the inputted information;

    receiving at least one result from the search of the database of customs related information; and

    if more than one result, selecting at least one of the at least one results.

25. The method of claim 24 comprising:

    storing the at least one selected result.

26. The method of claim 24 comprising:

    associating the at least one selected result with at least one user;

    tracking the at least one selected result for a change that affects the at least one selected result; and

notifying the at least one user of the change.

27. The method of claim 24 comprising:

generating merchandise classification information based on the at least one selected result.

28. The method of claim 24 comprising:

associating the at least one result or the at least one selected result with the at least one item of merchandise.

29. The method of claim 28 comprising storing the association and the at least one item of merchandise.

30. The method of claim 28 comprising basing a merchandise classification determination of the at least one item of merchandise on the associated at least one results or the at least one selected result.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein the associated at least one result or at least one selected result is accessed by links.

32. A method for providing a merchandise classification system for customs compliance, comprising:

providing a merchandise classification system for customs compliance having a searchable directory of advisors involved in merchandise classification; and

allocating the advisor's subscription fee to use the merchandise classification system to parties originating a merchandise classification determination.

33. A system for providing a merchandise classification method for customs compliance, comprising:

means for inputting information related to at least one item of merchandise;

means for searching a database of customs related information based on the inputted information;

means for receiving at least one result from the search of the database of customs related information; and

means for selecting at least one of the at least one results, if there is more than one result.

34. The system of claim 33 comprising means for storing the at least one selected result.

35. The system of claim 33 comprising:

means for associating the at least one selected result with at least one user;

means for tracking the at least one selected result for a change that affects the at least one selected result; and

means for notifying the at least one user of the change.

36. The system of claim 33 comprising:

means for generating merchandise classification information based on the at least one selected result.

37. The system of claim 33 comprising:

means for associating the at least one result or the at least one selected result with the at least one item of merchandise.

38. The system of claim 37 comprising means for storing the association and the at least one item of merchandise.

39. The system of claim 37 comprising means for basing a merchandise classification determination of the at least one item of merchandise on the associated at least one results or the at least one selected result.

40. The system of claim 37 wherein the associated at least one result or at least one selected result is accessed by links.